

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

**November 13, 2002**

**IN RE:**

**PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF  
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN TDS TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
CORPORATION AND CELLCO  
PARTNERSHIP D/B/A VERIZON WIRELESS**

**DOCKET NO. 02-00973**

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**ORDER APPROVING INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT**

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This matter came before Chairman Sara Kyle, Director Deborah Taylor Tate, and Director Ron Jones of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority"), the voting panel assigned to this docket, at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on October 21, 2002 to consider, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252, the Petition for approval of the interconnection agreement for cellular and commercial mobile radio services negotiated between TDS Telecommunications Corporation and Cellco Partnership, d/b/a Verizon Wireless, filed on September 9, 2002.

Based upon a review of the agreement, the record in this matter, and the standards for review set forth in 47 U.S.C. § 252, the Directors unanimously granted the Petition and made the following findings and conclusions:

- 1) The Authority has jurisdiction over public utilities pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104.
- 2) The agreement is in the public interest as it provides consumers with alternative sources of telecommunications services within the TDS Telecommunications Corporation service area.
- 3) The agreement is not discriminatory to telecommunications service providers that are not parties thereto.

4) 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(A) provides that a state commission may reject a negotiated agreement only if it “discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement” or if the implementation of the agreement “is not consistent with the public interest, convenience or necessity.” Unlike arbitrated agreements, a state commission may not reject a negotiated agreement on the grounds that the agreement fails to meet the requirements of 47 U.S.C. §§ 251 or 252(d).<sup>1</sup> Thus, although the Authority finds that neither ground for rejection of a negotiated agreement exists, this finding should not be construed to mean that the agreement is consistent with §§ 251 or 252(d) or, for that matter, previous Authority decisions.

5) This is an agreement for the provision of commercial mobile radio services and is not an agreement between competing carriers.

6) No person or entity has sought to intervene in this docket.

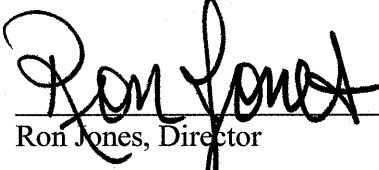
7) The agreement is reviewable by the Authority pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252 and Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

The Petition is granted, and the interconnection agreement for commercial mobile radio services between TDS Telecommunications Corporation and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless is approved and is subject to the review of the Authority as provided herein.

  
Sara Kyle, Chairman

  
Deborah Taylor Tate, Director

  
Ron Jones, Director

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<sup>1</sup> See 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(B)(Supp. 2001).